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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the guilty verdict yesterday of Thomas E. Smith, Jr. and Tyrone Smallwood on charges of murder in furtherance of a drug conspiracy and use of a firearm in relation to drug trafficking in Virginia and elsewhere. Smith was also found guilty of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine. Sentencing is scheduled for May 14, 2004, before the Honorable T.S. Ellis III, District Court Judge, at which time they face potential life sentences.

On February 11, 1996, Smith and Smallwood brutally shot Conrad Shelton near his family's home in Washington, D.C., because they believed Shelton participated in the burglary on one of their stash houses. Anthony Brown, the "look out" at the time of the murder, pled guilty to aiding and abetting and faces a sentence of 30 years to life when sentenced on April 2, 2004.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This verdict brings justice to a "cold case" and closure to the victim's family. Smith and Smallwood walked the streets for seven years, thinking they got away with murder. Instead, they now face the possibility of spending the rest of their lives in prison."

This case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Park Police, and the Metropolitan Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys Erik Barnett. Mike Rich and Brian Miller prosecuted the case.